

W.E.R.S. SPECIAL BULLETIN

INDIANAPOLIS CIVILIAN DEFENSE

AMATEUR RADIO

SPONSORED BY THE INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB

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September 8, 1943

Indianapolis and Marion County will have another Surprise Blackout early in October. The Indianapolis and Marion County Civilian Defense Councils have ordered their Chiefs of the 21 services to begin preparations and instructions to their some 13,000 trained volunteers.

The Blackout Will Remain Un-Announced Until About Ten Days Previous. The day of the week and the time of day will be a surprise. You Are Requested Not To Publicise It In Any Way.

TWO W.E.R.S. PRACTICE MOBILIZATIONS ORDERED

Mr. Harry E. Yockey has ordered two Practice Mobilizations of W.E.R.S.: the first, Sunday, September 26, 2 P.M. to 6 P.M.; the second, Sunday, October 3, 2 P.M. to 6 P.M. This is in accordance with F.C.C. Rules, Section 15.76.

All W.E.R.S. personnel is expected to be present at their assigned posts. Please refer to your W.E.R.S. Manual for assignments.

We have much to do before we are ready for the first mobilization September 26, not to mention the night of the Blackout.

Our new W.E.R.S. Emergency Radio System is the only service of the 21 Civilian Defense Groups that has not had several total mobilization practices.

We must have practice before we can function as a smooth and efficient network in any emergency. Likewise in the forthcoming practice blackout—which is under simulated Air Raid Conditions. The Club and W.E.R.S. must do it's share in making this Blackout a success. Then, on the other hand, we don't want the heads of Civilian Defense to have any cause to call our W.E.R.S. an inefficient or unreliable organization.

Complete details follow later.

First let's see what the boys have already been doing in our Indianapolis W.E.R.S. Results on the air are excellent, technically, and plenty of fun for those who are on. But let's hear the whole story.

WATTS DOING?

In this column we will try to give you a quick picture of Watts Doing on the W.E.R.S. net. Who is on the air, who is not on the air and why. Also, some of the worries and headaches encountered by various members of W.E.R.S.

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In general, the picture is one of a fair amount of activity on all test and drill periods although Sunday afternoon 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. seems to show the greatest number of stations on the air. Monday and Wednesday nights show only a fair amount of participation in the tests.

As you know, all zone stations have been setup and have been on the air at various times. During the past two or three weeks we have been missing Units 5 and 6. (How come Clark and Peters?) We miss you guys. At this point we cannot stress the importance of having all zone stations on at every test and drill period. If the zone station fails to show up for tests, you can readily see that this will deprive his mobile stations of operating activity and they will soon lose interest in the whole program, so think of this next time drill period rolls around om./ If the Owner Operator of the zone station cannot be at his post for each and every drill period he should contact his auxiliary operator, who has been assigned to assist him, and make arrangements for him to take over for the evening. The operators who are without equipment are just as anxious to operate and get the practice as you are. I might say that at this point Manning and Schlegal at #3 have been doing a good job along this line.

Come on fellows! Let's have at least 100% zone station participation on the tests from now on.

We hear that Gould #2 has been fighting a bad AC hum in his receiver---says it works f.b. on battery but not so good on AC. #22 (the name is Schultz) sure gets the stuff out of that little 7A4 job of his, sounds just as loud as his 25 watts of HY-75. Seeing the job he did on his ant. changeover switch he can soon qualify as a worker in plastics and polystyrene bending.

Manning #3 found out where his signal was going after he threw away his ant. changeover relay. What was it Fred? hooked up backwards or just poor insulation. During last Friday's meeting Fred was very rudely interrupted by a member of the Indianapolis Fire Department who informed him his car had been on fire, but they had the situation well in hand, with Fire Headquarters just across the street. Damage done was one singed coat and ruined upholstery. Fred says that the firemen as usual, went in the hard way, by breaking one of his door glasses while the door on the opposite side was unlocked. Hi.

Hull #17 has filed application for Zone Station at Beech Grove---will be a pair of 45's in a linear line oscillator with 6L6's for modulators. If Lynn can put a R7 signal into Indianapolis with a 7A4 in his car this new rig will be R99 plus.

Shrader #21 reports that he even found WKZ-7's signals in one of the deep dark corners of his basement. Myers #10 also reports a strong signal for #7 out in Ben Davis.

Begthel #34 has been heard at various times working #21--Carl's biggest worry at the present is, why the plate current on his HY615 goes down instead of up when he couples the antenna to it. (Maybe old man Q is playing tricks on you Carl). Incidentally Carl had a mighty nice looking Coaxial Antenna up to Club meeting last week.

Randall #4 got the bugs out of Control Centers transmitter and it now sounds f.b.

Manning #3 says Control Center is still a little weak out at Bellevue Place.

Clark #5 reports receiver and hayfever troubles. Clark has a mighty fine sounding transmitter, would say he has the smoothest modulation of anyone heard at this station. Geisendorff #1 biggest worry is the heating of the shack during the winter. Fire Captain at his Engine House says no heat this winter. Oh my...Harold has been one of the old faithful, on the air for every test period, and what a signal he puts in on the East side of town.

Sunday, September 5, the Net really got down to business by using strict procedure and handling a number of messages back and forth. Things went so fast it was hard to keep up the log.

Radio Aide Davis and Bill Randall at Control Center sure had their hands full. Ask them and see for yourselves.

Until the network has arrived at a smooth working procedure the drill periods will follow a definite time schedule as follows:

<u>SUNDAYS</u>	<u>MON. & WED.</u>	
4:00 pm	9:00 pm	
4:10	9:10	Roll Call of Zone Stations.
4:10 pm	9:10 pm	
4:15	9:15	Special Announcements by Control Center.
4:15 pm	9:15 pm	
4:30	9:30	Frequency Check and Adjustment Period for Zone and Control Center Stations.
4:30 pm	9:30 pm	
4:45	9:45	Frequency Adjustment Period for Zone and Portable Stations.
4:45 pm	9:45 pm	
5:45	10:45	General Message Handling Period.
5:45 pm	10:45 pm	
6:00	11:00	Comments and criticism of operations etc.

This seemed to work out very well on the last drill and allows time for each phase of activity.

Mitten #19 was heard running field strength tests in the downtown area with #22 the other night--Mitten says they can cover the downtown area in good shape with only a very few dead spots, here and there. Would suggest all Portable Mobile units make such tests in order to see what conditions exist on their districts. Schultz #12, one of the loudest FM jobs on the street, states he can cover his district with no trouble at all. With the Johnson Q and the TR4 I believe he can cover All Districts without any trouble.

Club meetings at Fire Headquarters have, during the past few weeks, been very interesting and instructive, we have had talks and demonstrations on such timely subjects as the use of Leacher wires in hf measurements, UHF detectors, we had a very fb talk and demonstration by Mr. Rinke of Electronic Labs., giving the boys the low down on the building of vibrator power supplies, and last week a nice talk on audio amplifiers by Carl Beghtel. Mr. Rinke says the brains and laboratory facilities of Electronic Labs are at the disposal of the Club Members in solving any of their portable power pack problems.

So if it's power supply trouble you are having see Mr. Rinke at Electronic Labs.

So much for this issue.

Permission hereby granted Norris Knowsall of Ama-chewers to reprint all or part of this running off the mouth.

Remember fellows the success of this column depends upon you so let's hear from you as to WATTS DOING?

NEW FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS PLAN

With more stations on the air we find it advisable to make an adjustment in our Frequency Allocations Plan in order to speed up traffic so that each zone can carry on it's communications while the other zones are working. This means assigning a separate channel to each zone, on which both the zone and it's mobile units will work. Channels will be staggered in zones so as to allow a minimum of interference between adjoining zones. The new frequency assignments are as follows:

Control Center Exclusively	112.4 mcs.
Inter Zone and Zone to Control	112.8
Zone #1 Mobile (both ways)	113.1
Zone #5 Mobile (both ways)	113.4
Zone #3 Mobile (both ways)	113.7
Zone #6 Mobile (both ways)	114.0
Zone #4 Mobile (both ways)	114.3
Beech Grove Control Center	114.6
Zone #2 Mobile (both ways)	114.9
District Warning Center (Unit #7)	112.8

The Beech Grove Control Center which will soon be in operation will act as a buffer channel between Zone number 2 and 4. This will allow a frequency separation of at least three tenths of a megacycle between each adjoining zone station when they are working their mobile units. The District Warning Station will operate on the new Zone channel of 112.8 mcs. The success of this new plan of frequency assignments will depend upon the Zone Stations ability to quickly change from zone to interzone frequencies, on both transmitters and receivers.

From our experience so far in the shifting of transmitter frequencies from one channel to the other, the greatest trouble lies in the stations inability to shift frequency in small enough steps, usually their tank condensers are too large and have too many plates, this requiring almost micrometer adjustments in order to get down to the tenth megacycle. We should apply our knowledge of band spread to these tank circuits in order to get a much finer adjustment of frequency. Along this line would suggest cutting down on size of tank condensers or adding an auxiliary trimmer of some sort (small 2 plate condenser) with a small calibrating pointer or dial.

This is important. Every man should make this change in transmitters and receivers so he can make this shift quickly.

Along with this new frequency setup we will find that two receivers in each zone station is almost a necessity, because one receiver will have to be left on the Control Center frequency of 112.4 Mcs at all times in order to receive any orders or instructions from Control Center without delay. The other receiver will be used for communicating with mobile units usually tuned to the mobile frequency, except when communicating with other zone stations.

This problem of additional receivers was discussed at last Friday's meeting and we have promises of getting the additional receivers.

A Word On Zone To Zone Station Procedure

Zone to Zone contacts will be completed as follows:

"Zone Station "Y" calls Control, stating he wishes to contact Zone Station "X". Control will contact the Zone Station being called, stating "Station "Y" is calling". The Calling Zone Station will clear with Control when communication is completed with the other Zone Station. Zone Stations are not to contact other Zone Stations without getting clearance from Control.

Portable-Mobile Units within the same Zone can communicate with one another by using this same procedure, except the Zone Station will act in the same capacity as Control as stated above.

New Procedure Coming

A special meeting has been called for 7:30 P.M. on September 22 and September 24 at the Club Room, 3rd Floor Fire Headquarters, New York and Alabama Streets. It will be necessary for all persons now holding W.E.R.S. Operator's Permits to attend at least one of these meetings before being allowed to participate in test and drills. The Procedure Committee will work up and present the methods of using proper procedure during tests and drills. New operators coming into W.E.R.S. will later receive their instructions in procedure from the Zone Station Operators. It is very important that all persons holding W.E.R.S. permits be present at these meetings.

This whole program will be thoroughly discussed at this coming Friday night meeting of the Indianapolis Radio Club, top floor of Fire Headquarters, New York and Alabama Streets, and we urge all those who have signed up in W.E.R.S. to be present and if possible bring a prospective operator or anyone who might be interested in this kind of Civilian Defense activity. Please bring your W.E.R.S. Manual and this Bulletin to the meeting

W.E.R.S. Classes and Instructions

For those who are interested in getting an operator's license so they can join W.E.R.S., the Club has underway a program for training these volunteers to get Restricted Radiotelephone Permits. You do not have to be a radio man. The course for the training of these volunteers will be held at the Club Rooms, 3rd Floor Fire Headquarters, New York and Alabama Streets, on the evenings of Tuesday September 21, 28, October 5, and 12 from 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. September 21 is enrollment night. Those interested in these classes should contact the club President, Mr. Alvey Pittman, Phone Br-8375.

Those With Radio Operators Licenses Are Eligible

Anyone who already has any kind of Radio Operators License is eligible for a W.E.R.S. Permit. You do not have to attend any school. See us and sign up. We need you and will furnish you with the necessary F.C.C. application blanks! We have 47 men signed up and need more.

Come up to Club Meetings, or call Don Davis, CH-0450-R or Alvey Pittman, BR-8375.

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Messages

To date we have had very little practice in handling messages. We have handled a few routine messages but no Air Raid Damage Reports. This is due primarily to the lack of messages and time being taken up during drill periods with technical adjustments and signal reporting. Handling of these messages will be a large part of our mobilization practice periods.

More Mobile Units

Our greatest need at the moment is for more mobile units on the street. We should endeavor to get all of them out by September 26 and October 3, the days for our Practice Mobilization and again for the actual Blackout. Also, get out the rest of the operators to their assigned posts and also make arrangements with the owner operator to take over when the regular operator cannot be present. Mobile units should be such that their equipment can be readily transferred from one car to another in case the regular mobile operator cannot always be present.

Postcards Questionnaire

Everyone who has received the postcard questionnaire is urged to get it filled out and in the mail at once. We need these so that we may complete our Chain Calling List. This is important. We want to be able to set it up not only for emergencies but for announcing practice periods etc. If you do not have a phone please list a neighbors phone so we may reach you. We will put you down on the chain so you will not have to make any calls, in most cases. So far the returns on these cards have been very discouraging, so What Say, let's get them in. If you have lost your card please contact Insp. Batts at the Police Radio Station.

Come on fellows lets see you down at Club next Friday. Please bring your W.E.R.S. Manual, your copy of this Special Bulletin and that prospective W.E.R.S. operator you promised to bring. It is especially important that all men having W.E.R.S. Permits be there!

Alva Pittman, President
Indianapolis Radio Club
Chairman, Recruitment & Training

Robert L. Batts
Chief of Radio & Alarms
Civilian Defense

Don Davis
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William Lueth, Chairman
Procedure Committee

Spurgeon H. Buder, Chairman
Frequency Allocations & Measurements